

Appl. No. 09/759,179

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of 17 February 2004. Claims 1-3, and 5-7, are pending in the application, and Claims 1-3, and 5-7 have been rejected.

By this Response and Amendment, independent Claims 1 and 6 have been amended; and new Claims 11-14 have been added.

No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments set forth above. In view of the amendments above and remarks below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination.

About The Invention

The present invention relates generally to stamps for use in lithographic processes and methods for making such stamps.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-2, and 5 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitesides, et al., (US Patent 5,900,160) in view of Biebuyck, et al., (US Patent 5,925,259) and Hawkins, et al., (US Patent 5,201,987). Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitesides, et al., (US Patent 5,900,160) in view of Biebuyck, et al., (US Patent 5,925,259) and Hawkins, et al., (US Patent 5,201,987) as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of Maracas, et al., (US Patent 5,937,758). Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitesides, et al., (US Patent 5,900,160) in view of Biebuyck, et al., (US Patent 5,925,259). Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitesides, et al., (US Patent 5,900,160) in view of Biebuyck, et al., (US Patent 5,925,259) as applied to Claim 6, and further in view of Whitesides, et al., (Article Soft Lithography Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 1998, vol. 37, pages 551-557).

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Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite the stamp body having a Young modulus greater than 10^6 N/m², and the stamp body having an elastic layer disposed therein. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 5, lines 26-29.

Since the references do not appear to disclose, suggest, or provide motivation for the invention defined by amended Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 1 has been overcome. Similarly, Applicant further submits that the rejections of Claims 2-3, and 5, which depend from amended Claim 1, have also been overcome.

Independent Claim 6 has been amended to recite disposing an unmolding agent between the mold and a first body. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at page 7, lines 29-32.

Since the references do not appear to disclose, suggest, or provide motivation for the invention defined by amended Claim 6, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 6 has been overcome. Similarly, Applicant further submits that the rejection of Claim 7, which depends from amended Claim 6, has also been overcome.

New Claims 11-14

New Claims 11-14, which all depend, directly or indirectly, from amended Claim 6, recite various aspects of the present invention as it relates to disposing an unmolding agent between the mold and the first body. These aspects include, disposing the unmolding agent on the mold, disposing the unmolding agent on the first body, using fluorosilane as the unmolding agent, and using a vacuum deposition process to apply the unmolding agent.

Support for new Claims 11-14 can be found in the specification at page 7,

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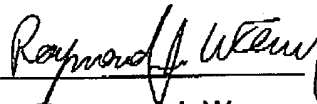
lines 29-32.

Conclusion

All of the rejections in the outstanding Office Action of 17 February 2004 have been responded to, and Applicants respectfully submit that the pending Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 11-14 are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Portland, Oregon